



**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

# News Release

May 10, 2005

## **ICE ARRESTS RUSSIAN MAN IN N.Y. WITH MORE THAN 1,000 COUNTERFEIT LAW ENFORCEMENT BADGES; FIREARMS; POLICE SCANNERS AND OTHER GEAR**

NEW YORK, NY – Martin D. Ficke, Special Agent-in-Charge for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in New York, today announced that ICE agents and officials from the U.S. Marshals Service arrested Sergio Khorosh yesterday on charges of knowingly transferring counterfeit police badges in interstate or foreign commerce; knowingly possessing and offering for sale counterfeit police badges; and illegal weapons possession.

Sergio Khorosh, a native of Russia and a resident of the Bronx, New York, made his initial court appearance late yesterday in the Southern District of New York after his arrest by ICE agents assigned to the El Dorado anti-money laundering task force and U.S. Marshals Service.

According to a criminal complaint filed in the Southern District of New York, the investigation began on April 25, 2005, when U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspectors in San Francisco intercepted a package from Taiwan that was marked “badges.” The package contained 100 counterfeit U.S. Marshals Service badges imprinted with the stamp of the legitimate manufacturer on the back. The package was addressed to “Pro Products Co” at an apartment in the Bronx, according to the complaint.

ICE agents launched an investigation and determined that the Bronx address was linked to Sergio Khorosh, who represented himself on the Internet as the owner of “Pro. Police Products.” Based on a review of CBP records, ICE agents determined that two other packages labeled as “badges” had been shipped to the Bronx apartment since January 2005. Two other packages had been shipped to the apartment by the same shipper since May 2004, according to the criminal complaint.

On May 9, 2005, an undercover ICE agent arrived at the Bronx apartment and attempted to deliver the package containing 100 counterfeit badges to Khorosh. After Khorosh accepted delivery of the package, ICE agents executed a search warrant on his apartment where they seized more than 1,000 high-quality counterfeit badges depicting those of 35 different federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

According to the criminal complaint, the badges represented agencies that include the U.S. Marshals Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Secret Service, the Federal Air Marshal Service, Aviation

Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the New York Police Department, the former U.S. Customs Service, the U.S. Army Military Police and the U.S. Marine Corps Military Police.

ICE agents also seized a Beretta Cx4 semiautomatic rifle, a Glock 9mm handgun, a Browning .22 caliber pistol, a Hi-Point 9mm pistol, and a Winchester 1300 Defender shotgun. In addition, ICE agents seized several laser scopes for use with rifles; police hand-held radios and scanners; computers; \$16,000 in U.S. currency, as well as marijuana and cocaine.

“This was a truly frightening discovery,” said ICE Special Agent-in-Charge Ficke. “While the investigation is ongoing, we have reason to believe that Mr. Khorosh may have provided high-quality counterfeit law enforcement badges to a large number of individuals. Retrieving these badges and making sure they are not in the wrong hands is our top priority as this investigation moves forward.”

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.*